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# HOUSE BILL No. 1311

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 5-10-8-7.4; IC 27-8-24.4; IC 27-13-7-20.

**Synopsis:** Insurance coverage for hearing aids. Requires a state employee health plan, a policy of accident and sickness insurance, and a health maintenance organization contract to provide hearing aid coverage.

**Effective:** July 1, 2009.

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January 13, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Insurance.

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Introduced

First Regular Session 116th General Assembly (2009)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1311

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A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning insurance.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1       SECTION 1. IC 5-10-8-7.4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
3 1, 2009]: **Sec. 7.4. (a) As used in this section, "covered individual"**  
4 **means an individual who is entitled to coverage under a state**  
5 **employee health plan.**

6       **(b) As used in this section, "hearing aid" means a nondisposable**  
7 **device that is of a design and circuitry to optimize audibility and**  
8 **listening skills.**

9       **(c) As used in this section, "hearing aid coverage" means**  
10 **coverage for a hearing aid that is:**

11           **(1) prescribed;**

12           **(2) fitted; and**

13           **(3) dispensed;**

14 **for a covered individual by an audiologist licensed under**  
15 **IC 25-35.6.**

16       **(d) As used in this section, "state employee health plan" refers**  
17 **to:**



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(1) a self-insurance program established under section 7(b) of this chapter to provide group health coverage; or

(2) a contract for health services with a prepaid health care delivery plan that is entered into or renewed under section 7(c) of this chapter;

that provides coverage for basic health care services (as defined in IC 27-13-1-4).

(e) A state employee health plan must provide hearing aid coverage for a covered individual.

SECTION 2. IC 27-8-24.4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009]:

#### **Chapter 24.4. Coverage for Hearing Aids**

**Sec. 1.** As used in this chapter, "covered individual" means an individual who is entitled to coverage under a policy of accident and sickness insurance.

**Sec. 2.** As used in this chapter, "hearing aid" means a nondisposable device that is of a design and circuitry to optimize audibility and listening skills.

**Sec. 3.** As used in this chapter, "hearing aid coverage" means coverage for a hearing aid that is:

- (1) prescribed;
- (2) fitted; and
- (3) dispensed;

for a covered individual by an audiologist licensed under IC 25-35.6.

**Sec. 4. (a)** As used in this chapter, "policy of accident and sickness insurance" has the meaning set forth in IC 27-8-5-1.

**(b)** The term does not include the following:

- (1) Accident only, credit, dental, vision, Medicare, Medicare supplement, long term care, or disability income insurance.
- (2) Coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance.
- (3) Automobile medical payment insurance.
- (4) A specified disease policy.
- (5) A limited benefit health insurance policy.
- (6) A short term insurance plan that:
  - (A) may not be renewed; and
  - (B) has a duration of not more than six (6) months.
- (7) A policy that provides a stipulated daily, weekly, or monthly payment to an insured during hospital confinement, without regard to the actual expense of the confinement.
- (8) Worker's compensation or similar insurance.

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**(9) A student health insurance policy.**

**Sec. 5. A policy of accident and sickness insurance must provide hearing aid coverage for a covered individual.**

SECTION 3. IC 27-13-7-20 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009]: **Sec. 20. (a) As used in this section, "hearing aid" means a nondisposable device that is of a design and circuitry to optimize audibility and listening skills.**

**(b) As used in this section, "hearing aid coverage" means coverage for a hearing aid that is:**

- (1) prescribed;**
- (2) fitted; and**
- (3) dispensed;**

**for an enrollee by an audiologist licensed under IC 25-35.6.**

**(c) An individual contract or a group contract with a health maintenance organization that provides coverage for basic health care services must provide hearing aid coverage for an enrollee.**

SECTION 4. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009] **(a) IC 5-10-8-7.4, as added by this act, applies to a state employee health benefit plan that is entered into, delivered, established, amended, or renewed after June 30, 2009.**

**(b) IC 27-8-24.4, as added by this act, applies to a policy of accident and sickness insurance that is issued, delivered, amended, or renewed after June 30, 2009.**

**(c) IC 27-13-7-20, as added by this act, applies to a health maintenance organization contract that is entered into, delivered, amended, or renewed after June 30, 2009.**

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